

Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program – National Integrated Water Quality Program

FY 2007 Request for Applications

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION REQUIRED

APPLICATION DEADLINE: April 4, 2007



U.S. Department of Agriculture



Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

**COOPERATIVE STATE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION SERVICE;
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**INTEGRATED RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND EXTENSION COMPETITIVE
GRANTS PROGRAM – NATIONAL INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY PROGRAM**

INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CATALOG OF FEDERAL DOMESTIC ASSISTANCE: This program is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.303.

DATES: Applications must be received **by Grants.gov** by close of business (COB) on **April 4, 2007** (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). **Electronic submission via Grants.gov is required for this program.** Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. Comments regarding this request for applications (RFA) are requested within six months from the issuance of this notice. Comments received after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

STAKEHOLDER INPUT: The Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) is requesting comments regarding this RFA from any interested party. These comments will be considered in the development of the next RFA for the program, if applicable, and will be used to meet the requirements of section 103(c)(2) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7613(c)(2)). This section requires the Secretary to solicit and consider input on a current RFA from persons who conduct or use agricultural research, education and extension for use in formulating future RFAs for competitive programs. Written stakeholder comments on this RFA should be submitted in accordance with the deadline set forth in the DATES portion of this Notice.

Written stakeholder comments should be submitted by mail to: Policy, Oversight, and Funds Management Branch; Office of Extramural Programs; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; USDA; STOP 2299; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2299; or via e-mail to: RFP-OEP@csrees.usda.gov. (This e-mail address is intended only for receiving comments regarding this RFA and not requesting information or forms.) In your comments, please state that you are responding to the National Integrated Water Quality Program RFA.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: CSREES announces the availability of grant funds and requests applications for the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program - National Integrated Water Quality Program (NIWQP) for fiscal year (FY) 2007. The amount available for support of this program in FY 2007 is approximately \$11,278,000.

This notice identifies the objectives for NIWQP projects, the eligibility criteria for projects and applicants, and the application forms and associated instructions needed to apply for a NIWQP grant. CSREES additionally requests stakeholder input from any interested party for use in the development of the next RFA for this program.

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PART I—FUNDING OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

A. Legislative Authority and Background

Section 406 of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (AREERA) (7 U.S.C. 7626) authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a research, education, and extension competitive grants program to provide funding for agricultural activities with a total integrated, multifunctional research, education, and extension approach (see definition in Part VIII, E.). Subject to the availability of appropriations to carry out this program, the Secretary may award grants to colleges and universities (as defined by section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (NARETPA) (7 U.S.C. 3103)) on a competitive basis for integrated research, education, and extension projects. Grants are to be awarded to address priorities in United States agriculture that involve integrated research, education, and extension activities as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board (NAREEEAB).

CSREES will administer the Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program by determining priorities in U.S. agriculture through Agency stakeholder input processes in consultation with the NAREEEAB. Each RFA will be developed each fiscal year based on these established priorities and approaches to solving the critical agricultural issues. While the overall approach to solving critical agricultural issues, priorities, or problems will be through an integration of research, education, and extension activities within each individual program, component RFAs, depending on the priority addressed, may request applications that are research, education, or extension only, or a combination thereof.

In FY 2007, CSREES anticipates that the entire Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program will be funded at approximately \$38,589,000 (after deduction for administrative expenses) for the following integrated activities: Water Quality (\$11,278,000), Food Safety (\$12,997,000), and Pest Management, which includes Regional Integrated Pest Management Centers (\$3,890,000), Crops at Risk (\$1,275,000), Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program (\$4,219,000), Methyl Bromide Transitions Program (\$3,075,000), and Organic Transitions Program (\$5,000,000). Five of the seven Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Competitive Grants Program RFAs have already been released: one for Food Safety, one for Crops at Risk, one for Risk Avoidance and Mitigation Program, one for Methyl Bromide Transitions Program, and one for Integrated Organic Program, which includes the Organic Transitions Program. This RFA announces and describes one component of the NIWQP for approximately \$10,978,000. Another NIWQP RFA, the Conservation Effects Assessment Project, will be published separately as a joint program with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The total funding available for this joint program will be approximately \$600,000. CSREES will provide approximately \$300,000 for this joint program and NRCS will contribute approximately \$300,000.

B. Purpose and Priorities

The goal of the NIWQP is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of our Nation's surface water and groundwater resources through research, education, and extension activities. Projects funded through this program will facilitate achieving this goal by advancing and disseminating the knowledge base available to agricultural, rural, and urbanizing communities. Funded projects should lead to science-based decision making and management practices that improve the quality of the Nation's surface water and groundwater resources in agricultural, rural, and urbanizing watersheds.

C. Program Area Description

Projects **MUST** address water quality issues in **agricultural, rural, and urbanizing watersheds**. Eight topical themes have been identified for the NIWQP:

1. Animal Waste Management;
2. Drinking Water and Human Health;
3. Environmental Restoration;
4. Nutrient and Pesticide Management;
5. Pollution Assessment and Prevention;
6. Watershed Management;
7. Water Conservation and Agricultural Water Management; and
8. Water Policy and Economics.

The CSREES National Water Program promotes the synergistic interaction among projects funded in the three Program Areas listed below. We expect that knowledge created through funded projects is shared at the community and watershed scale via education and outreach activities of the project. We also expect that knowledge is transferred among projects and across Program Areas within the NIWQP. Ultimately, Extension Education projects and Integrated Research, Education, and Extension projects should be sharing and coordinating project accomplishments with appropriate National Facilitation projects and Regional Water Quality Coordination projects. Likewise, National Facilitation and Regional Water Quality Coordination projects should coordinate activities to achieve synergistic effects of greater knowledge transfer and use among stakeholders and practitioners in the water resources community.

Over time, it is the intent of CSREES to solicit projects that represent all eight themes listed above.

Agricultural water resources issues addressed in this program reflect the broader spectrum of international water issues. This program encourages international partnerships, linkages, and exchanges so long as clear explanation is provided as to how such international activities, as part of the proposed project, will contribute to U.S. national water resources issues. However, investigators should recognize that such international partnerships, linkages, and exchanges are expected to be a small proportion of the total funding provided through this program.

Applications are being solicited for the National Integrated Water Quality Program under the following areas:

1. National Facilitation Projects;
2. Extension Education Projects; and
3. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Projects.

For FY 2007 no new applications are solicited for Regional Water Quality Coordination Projects (RWQCP). Nine existing projects will be continued from FY 2004 and FY 2005.

In each Program Area, projects are solicited for only those topics identified in that program area's description below. It is essential that applicants read the descriptions carefully when preparing applications. Proposals submitted to the Extension Education (Program Code 110.C) or Integrated Research, Education, and Extension (Program Code 110.D) must address the priority question areas listed in this RFA or applications will be returned without review.

NIWQP encourages projects that develop content suitable for delivery through eXtension (http://about.extension.org/mediawiki/files/5/51/EXECUTIVE_SUMMARY_-_March_14%2C_2006_-_YEAR_2.pdf). This content is for end users, as opposed to staff development, and must align with the eXtension Implementation Plan (available at <http://about.extension.org/wiki/Planning>). Funds may be used to contribute to existing Communities of Practice (COPs) (http://about.extension.org/wiki/Glossary_of_eXtension_Terms#Community_of_Practice_.28Co_P.29;) or form new COPs that focus on Water Quality (for examples of developing COPs and guidance on forming COPs, see http://cop.extension.org/wiki/Main_Page).

1. National Facilitation Projects

Program Area 110.A

Across the nation, communities are attempting to formulate public policy and management strategies that will allow economic growth and increased profitability. Proposed projects should coordinate new or expand existing programs to provide a common base of knowledge in support of individuals and communities addressing economic growth and profitability while also protecting or improving water resources.

Through these projects, we intend to:

- increase public understanding and involvement in community decision-making for water resources;
- facilitate development and application of recommendations and tools to improve public policy; and
- evaluate impacts on water resources issues.

This Program Area will support projects that facilitate the appropriate application of tools and techniques to strengthen awareness of the impacts of current and proposed land use activities on water resources.

All applications **MUST**:

- Work at a national or multi-regional scale;
- Include an evaluation component to document project impacts at the community level that ultimately are aggregated to the multi-regional or national scale. The evaluation component should document impacts on behavior change or elevating awareness and building capacity; and
- Provide an appropriate management plan for the project team and all partners to successfully address the water resource issue of concern.

Proposed projects should:

- Develop solutions to identified water resource issues of concern;
- Result in additional citizen involvement;
- Contribute to an increase in community partnerships and networks; and
- Yield more rational analysis of environmental decisions and wider dispersal of information in communities and across the Nation.

Two new areas of special emphasis exist for the FY 2007 program. Projects addressing one of these two areas of special emphasis will be given priority for funding.

- Use of recycled water in agriculture. Successful projects should address the following questions: What are the knowledge gaps and barriers to expanded implementation? What strategies can be developed to overcome these barriers? How can we best document and communicate the scientific information regarding benefits and risks of using recycled water in agriculture? Successful projects also should develop appropriate training and educational materials for key target audiences in food production, food processing, and consumption. Successful projects should provide an organized synthesis of available information that addresses the questions and issues identified above. These projects should include multi-disciplinary teams that include expertise on water, food safety, agronomy, engineering, microbiology, and other relevant disciplines.

Additional resources regarding use of recycled water in agriculture are available on the CSREES web site at:

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/water_if_security.html

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/nre/in_focus/water_if_listening.html

http://www.csrees.usda.gov/newsroom/news/2005news/water_wp.html

- Impacts of bioenergy development on water use and water quality. What sources of water (quality and quantity) can be used or will be needed to expand bioenergy development for crop growth and in the energy production process? What will be the changes in water quantity and quality that result from converting conservation reserve lands or changing cropping patterns or practices (e.g. tillage, residue management, and nutrient management)? How will biobased feedstock management during and after processing impact water quality and water demand? Successful projects should develop appropriate training and educational materials for key target audiences that integrate water protection

and management into biofuel production and processing. We encourage multi-disciplinary teams that include expertise on water, engineering, forestry, rangelands, agronomy, economics, policy, and other relevant disciplines.

All PDs funded in this section of the program are expected to participate in the annual CSREES National Water Conference. Reasonable travel expenses to the CSREES National Water Conference may be claimed as part of the project budget.

In addition, funded PDs are expected to participate in the Standing Leadership Team for National Facilitation Projects of the CSREES Committee for Shared Leadership for Water Quality. Information about this committee is available at www.usawaterquality.org.

Award recipients also are expected to provide copies of annual reports and updates to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Coordinator. Contact information for the Regional Water Quality Coordinators will be provided to award recipients at the time of the award.

Examples of funded National Facilitation Projects are available at www.usawaterquality.org/facilitation.

2. Extension Education Projects

Program Area 110.C

Changing social and cultural values of water requires more than just “laying out the facts.” Education must create opportunities and incentives for behavioral change that lead to protection or improvement of water resources. Opportunities and incentives can include:

- Building motivation, knowledge, and skills required for a specific action;
- Creating expectations of success or impact;
- Altering habits or routines;
- Generating supportive attitudes and public policy;
- Removing community norms that result in inconsistent behaviors (behaving differently in public versus private settings);
- Allowing mechanisms for social pressure or disapproval;
- Clearly articulating economic incentives; and
- Encouraging cultural models that promote the understanding of cause and effect.

Projects are solicited that improve our understanding of what it takes to achieve adoption of water resources protection and improvement practices and the appropriate outreach and education strategies needed to achieve adoption – hereafter referred to as adoption-outreach.

Adoption-outreach requires communicating knowledge and related behaviors in a manner that builds individual confidence and motivation to apply new practices in a specific situation. Individuals are most likely to try something different when they understand the new practice; understand how and why the new practice works; and understand the advantages, disadvantages, and consequences of applying the new practice. The eventual goal is to build individual and community motivation and skills to investigate and adopt new practices as needed. This is more

likely to happen when the outreach initiative also creates and implements a shared vision of the nature of the problem and helps stakeholders to choose a relevant solution.

Effective adoption-outreach initiatives work with specific audiences, as opposed to communicating with the “general public”. Audiences are selected according to the likelihood that their current behaviors or practices impact the environmental condition. An effective outreach program begins by building a relationship with the audience or stakeholders. This relationship reflects an understanding of the knowledge needs of the audience as well as their learning and delivery preferences. That understanding is used to design a program that promotes behavior change. A quality initiative also identifies specific measures that can be used to describe change and impacts, to provide feedback to individuals and sponsors, and to inform program design.

Successful projects must be able to demonstrate how water resources protection and improvement will be achieved through:

- An implementation plan that surpasses simply delivering information;
- The set of options available for incentive programs;
- Integration of incentives and education; and
- Demonstrated participation in the project by a stakeholder group.

Projects MUST address one of the following priority question areas presented below:

- Identify outreach-educational activities that are most effective in achieving adoption among farmers and ranchers. What novel solutions can be developed to reduce ineffective and protracted delivery of current water technologies and practices to the rural and urbanizing environments? Preference will be given to projects that address needs of limited resource or minority farmers.
- Identify water use issues and appropriate mechanisms to “articulate” agricultural water technologies and practices into urbanizing environments. How can we best take the lessons learned in agricultural watersheds and apply them to audiences in urbanizing watersheds?
- Develop an adoption-outreach program to promote drought preparedness, to link water quality and quantity, or enhance water allocations to ecosystem services while maintaining water supplies for irrigated agriculture. How can we effectively expand the knowledge base used by stakeholders, remove barriers to inaction, and promote a shared vision toward protecting or improving water resources?

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate a substantial potential to enhance the long-term knowledge base;
- Utilize novel or non-traditional partners (e.g., non-governmental organizations, public or private foundations, social scientists or psychologists) to move educational programs toward improved water resource management and behavior change in stakeholders;
- Leverage project resources and promote active public and private sector participation and partnerships;

- Focus on watersheds where the project will better inform policy makers in developing the most equitable multi-state and/or regional strategies for water resources improvement; and
- Develop and implement an evaluation plan that demonstrates the impact of the project through measured improvements in water quality and/or measurable behavior change.

All PDs funded in this section of the program are expected to participate in the annual CSREES National Water Conference. Reasonable travel expenses to the CSREES National Water Conference may be claimed as part of the project budget.

The intent of the NIWQP is to have Extension Education projects funded by the program participate in, coordinate with, and share suitable information with the appropriate Regional Water Quality program. These interactions are intended to expand the geographic scope and impact of Extension Education projects to a broader regional audience. Award recipients also are expected to provide copies of annual reports and updates to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Coordinator. Contact information for the Regional Water Quality Coordinator will be provided to award recipients at the time of the award.

Examples of funded projects are available at www.usawaterquality.org/projects.

3. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Projects

Program Area 110.D

All proposed projects in Program Area 110.D **MUST** present a **FULLY** integrated research, education, and extension approach to solve water resource problems at the whole watershed scale that include linked research objectives, education objectives, and extension/outreach objectives.

Projects submitted to Section 110.D will be evaluated, in part, based upon the degree to which they address the following items. Projects responding to this section of the RFA MUST:

- Identify the cause of water resource degradation;
- Solve water resource problems at the whole watershed scale. Applications that propose work at a spatial scale other than the whole watershed must demonstrate that the geospatial scale or entity (state, county, or community) is the most appropriate scale of investigation and will ultimately result in watershed level improvements in water resources. Projects at the plot- or field-scale will not be accepted;
- Include hypothesis-driven research that fills the knowledge gaps that are critical to the development of practices and programs that will improve the quality of the Nation's water resources;
- Create educational deliverables (e.g., interdisciplinary curriculums, experiential learning for undergraduates and graduate students) that will train the next generation of scientists and educators who will work to improve the Nation's water resources;
- Deliver an effective extension/outreach program that will lead to measurable behavior change in an identified audience or stakeholder group;

- Include a management plan (developed with input from stakeholder advisory groups, watershed councils, or other community led action teams) that leads to measurable improvements in the watershed condition; and
- Develop and implement an evaluation plan that demonstrates the impact of the project through measured improvements in water quality and/or measurable behavior change.

Projects MUST address one of the three following priority question areas presented below:

- What leads to **measurable behavior change** of farmers, ranchers and landowners or land managers regarding the practices they implement to protect water quality or manage water use? What factors (physical, social, economic, or institutional) foster or impede adoption and/or maintenance of practices or technologies? What are the most effective tools (for the identified audience) to promote real change?
- What are the hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological conditions needed to restore the structure and function of aquatic or estuarine ecosystems impacted by agricultural water use (surface water or groundwater) or agricultural non-point source pollution? How do social, cultural, economic, and/or institutional factors hinder or promote implementation of existing hydrologic, geomorphic, and ecological knowledge?
- A wide array of factors (physical, biological, cultural, and economic) lead to water quality impairments in watersheds. These factors are not evenly distributed across a watershed – indicating that some areas within a watershed pose a greater risk to water quality impairment. How do these multiple factors interact at the watershed scale to impact water quality? What new outreach and education tools are needed to improve the efficacy of conservation practice implementation and maintenance? Successful projects should develop tools that can be used by stakeholders within a watershed and across a broader regional landscape to identify those areas that pose the greatest risk to degrade water quality. Projects should describe how research and extension activities can lead to improved effectiveness of conservation practices and programs at the watershed scale.

Preference will be given to projects that:

- Demonstrate a substantial potential to enhance
 - (i) The long term knowledge base;
 - (ii) Existing opportunities for leveraging; and
 - (iii) Active public and private sector participation.
- Take advantage of the participatory research, education, and extension opportunities engendered by watershed restoration and continued watershed management; and/or
- Focus on watersheds where the project will better inform policy makers in developing the most equitable multi-state and/or regional strategies for water quality improvement.

All PDs funded in this section of the program are expected to participate in the annual CSREES National Water Conference. Reasonable travel expenses to the CSREES National Water Conference may be claimed as part of the project budget.

The intent of the NIWQP is to have Integrated Research, Education, and Extension projects funded by the program participate in, coordinate with, and share suitable information with the appropriate Regional Water Quality program. These interactions are intended to expand the geographic scope and impact of Integrated Research, Education, and Extension projects to a broader regional audience. Award recipients also are expected to provide copies of annual reports and updates to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Coordinator. Contact information for the Regional Water Quality Coordinator will be provided to award recipients at the time of the award.

Examples of funded projects are available at www.usawaterquality.org/projects.

4. Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP)

Program Area 110.E

This program area will be offered as part of an interagency joint solicitation titled “Evaluating the Effects of Conservation Practices on Water Quality.” Information on this program area will be available in a separate supplemental RFA. CSREES anticipates publishing this RFA at the end of January 2007 and will make the document available at www.csrees.usda.gov/fo/funding.cfm. **This RFA does not solicit applications for the CEAP Project.** For more information on this program area, potential applicants may contact Mike O'Neill (202) 205-5952 or moneill@csrees.usda.gov or Lisa Duriancik at (202) 401-4141 or lduriancik@csrees.usda.gov.

PART II—AWARD INFORMATION

A. Available Funding

There is no commitment by USDA to fund any particular application or to make a specific number of awards. Approximately \$11,278,000 will be available to fund NIWQP applications in FY 2007.

B. Types of Applications

In FY 2007, applications may be submitted to the NIWQP Program as one of the following types of requests:

(1) New application. This is a project application that has not been previously submitted to the NIWQP Program. All new applications will be reviewed competitively using the selection process and evaluation criteria described in Part V—Application Review Requirements.

(2) Renewal application. This is a project application that requests additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in an original or amended award. Applications for renewed funding must contain the same information as required for new applications, and additionally must contain a Progress Report (see Project Narrative, Part IV). Renewal applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate area to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

(3) Resubmitted application. This is an application that had previously been submitted to the NIWQP Program but not funded. Project Directors (PDs) must respond to the previous review panel summary (see Response to Previous Review, Part IV). Resubmitted applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate area to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

(4) Resubmitted renewal application. This is a project application that requests additional funding for a project beyond the period that was approved in the original award. In addition, this is an application that had previously been submitted for renewal to the NIWQP Program but not funded. Therefore, PDs must provide a Progress Report as required under the Project Narrative, Part IV, and must respond to the previous review panel summary as required under Response to Previous Review, Part IV. Resubmitted renewal applications must be received by the relevant due dates, will be evaluated in competition with other pending applications in appropriate areas to which they are assigned, and will be reviewed according to the same evaluation criteria as new applications.

C. Project Types

The following are CSREES funding estimates for FY 2007, number of awards anticipated, maximum annual project budgets, and acceptable project periods for each of the program areas within the NIWQP.

Program Area	Funding Estimate FY 2007	Number of New Awards Anticipated FY 2007	Maximum Annual Project Budget	Acceptable Project Period
National Facilitation Projects – <i>Program Area Code 110.A</i>	\$1,000,000	2-3	\$100,000	1 – 4 yrs.
Extension Education Projects – <i>Program Area Code 110.C</i>	\$735,000	3-4	\$70,000	1 – 3 yrs.
Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Projects – <i>Program Area Code 110.D</i>	\$3, 300,000	5-6	\$200,000	1 – 3 yrs.
Conservation Effects Assessment Project (CEAP) Competitive Grants Program – <i>Program Area Code 110.E*</i>	\$300,000	1	\$200,000	3 yrs.
<p><i>No new applications are solicited for Regional Water Quality Coordination Projects (Program Area Code 110.B). Nine existing projects will be continued from FY 2004 and FY 2005 for approximately \$6,000,000.</i></p> <p><i>*This RFA does not solicit applications for CEAP projects. See Part I, C., Program Area Description.</i></p>				

Applications that include requests for annual project budgets in excess of the maximum annual project budgets established above (with the exception of multi-region projects under the RWQCP Program Area), or propose project periods outside the acceptable project ranges above, for the applicable Program Area, will be returned to applicants without review.

PART III—ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

A. Eligible Applicants

Applications may be submitted by colleges and universities (as defined in section 1404 of the NARETPA). For purposes of this program, the terms “college” and “university” mean an educational institution in any State which (1) admits as regular students only persons having a certificate of graduation, or the recognized equivalent of such a certificate, from a school providing secondary education; (2) is legally authorized within such State to provide a program of education beyond secondary education; (3) provides an educational program for which a bachelor's degree or any other higher degree is awarded; (4) is a public or other nonprofit institution; and (5) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association. Applications also may be submitted by 1994 Land-Grant Institutions (as defined in Part VIII, E.). A research foundation maintained by a college or university is not eligible to receive an award under this program. Award recipients may subcontract to organizations not eligible to apply provided such organizations are necessary for the conduct of the project. An applicant's failure to meet an eligibility criterion by the time of an application deadline will result in CSREES returning the application without review or, even though an application may be reviewed, will preclude CSREES from making an award.

B. Cost Sharing or Matching

If a grant provides a particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, the grant recipient is required to provide funds awarded on a dollar-for-dollar basis from non-Federal sources with cash and/or in-kind contributions.

CSREES may waive the matching funds requirement for a grant if CSREES determines that: (a) the results of the project, while of particular benefit to a specific agricultural commodity, are likely to be applicable to agricultural commodities generally; or (b) the project involves a minor commodity, the project deals with scientifically important research, and the grant recipient is unable to satisfy the matching funds requirement.

PART IV—APPLICATION AND SUBMISSION INFORMATION

A. Address to Request Application Package

Only electronic applications may be submitted via Grants.gov to CSREES in response to this RFA.

Prior to preparing an application, it is suggested that the PD/PI first contact an Authorized Representative (AR) to determine if the organization is prepared to submit electronic applications through Grant.gov. If the organization is not prepared, the AR should see http://www.grants.gov/applicants/get_registered.jsp for steps for preparing to submit applications through Grants.gov.

The steps to access application materials are as follows:

1. Download and install PureEdge Viewer, a small, free program that provides access to the grant application. See http://www.grants.gov/resources/download_software.jsp#pureedge.
2. The application package must be obtained via Grants.gov, go to <http://www.grants.gov>, click on “Apply for Grants” in the left-hand column, click on “**Step 1: Download a Grant Application Package and Instructions**,” enter the CFDA number 10.303 or funding opportunity number USDA-CSREES-ICGP-000365 in the appropriate box and click “Download Package.” From the search results, click “Download” to access the application package.

Contained within the application package is the “[CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide: A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov](#).” This Guide contains an introduction and general Grants.gov instructions, information about how to use a Grant Application Package in Grants.gov, and instructions on how to complete the application forms.

If assistance is needed to access the application package (e.g., downloading or navigating PureEdge forms, using PureEdge with a Macintosh computer), refer to resources available on the Grants.gov Web site first (<http://grants.gov/>). Grants.gov assistance is also available as follows:

- Grants.gov customer support
Toll Free: 1-800-518-4726
Business Hours: M-F 7:00 am – 9 pm Eastern Standard Time
Email: support@grants.gov

For additional resources for applying electronically visit these sites:

<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic.html>
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/app_help.html
http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/electronic_faq.html

Tips on applying electronically
Finding help
Frequently asked questions

B. Content and Form of Application Submission

Electronic applications should be prepared following Part V and VI of the document entitled “[A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov.](#)” This guide is part of the corresponding application package (see Section A. of this Part). The following is **additional information** needed in order to prepare an application in response to this RFA. If there is discrepancy between the two documents, the information contained in this RFA is overriding.

Note the attachment requirements (e.g., portable document format) in Part III Section 3. of the Guide.

1. R&R Other Project Information Form

a. Project Summary/Abstract (Field 6. on the Form). The summary should also include the relevance of the project to the goals of NIWQP.

b. Project Narrative (Field 7. on the Form).

PLEASE NOTE: The Project Narrative shall not exceed **twenty (20)** pages of written text, figures and tables. This maximum (**20** pages) has been established to ensure fair and equitable competition. The Project Narrative must include all of the following:

(a) Introduction: Include a clear statement of the long-term goal(s) and supporting objectives of the proposed activities. Summarize the body of knowledge or past activities which substantiate the need for the proposed project. Describe ongoing or recently completed significant activities related to the proposed activity, including the work of key project personnel. Include preliminary data/information pertinent to the proposed project. In addition, include in-depth information on the following, when applicable:

(1) Estimates of the magnitude of the issues and their relevance to stakeholders and to ongoing State-Federal food and agricultural research, education, and extension programs;

(2) Role of the stakeholders in problem identification, planning, and implementation and evaluation as appropriate; and

(3) Reasons for having the work performed at the proposing institution.

(b) Objectives: Include clear, concise, complete, and logically arranged statement(s) of specific aims of the proposed effort in all proposals. Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Projects (Program Area 110.D) must include specific objectives for each function: research, education, and extension.

(c) Methods: Explicitly state the procedures or methods to be applied to the proposed effort. Include, but do not necessarily limit to:

(1) Description of stakeholder involvement in problem identification, planning, implementation and evaluation;

- (2) Description of the proposed project activities in the sequence in which it is planned to carry them out;
 - (3) Techniques to be employed, including their feasibility and rationale for their use in this project;
 - (4) Kinds of results expected;
 - (5) Means by which extension and education activities will be evaluated;
 - (6) Means by which data will be analyzed and interpreted;
 - (7) Details of plans to communicate results to stakeholders and the public;
 - (8) Pitfalls that might be encountered; and
 - (9) Limitations to proposed procedures.
- (d) Project Timetable:** Outline all important phases as a function of time, year by year, for the entire project, including periods beyond the grant funding period. Include specific, measurable accomplishments for each year of NIWQP funding.

(e) Progress Report: For renewal applications and resubmitted renewal applications (as defined in Part II., B.), a progress report must be included within the page limitation set for the Project Narrative portion of the application.

In addition to the contents required above, applications proposing **National Facilitation Projects** must describe the roles and responsibilities of central coordinators and present a management plan for the administration of the project including facilitation of communication, planning, and annual report preparation.

2. Budget

Matching.

If an applicant concludes that matching funds are not required as specified under Part III., B., the R&R Budget must be utilized and a justification should be included in the Budget Narrative. CSREES will consider this justification when ascertaining final matching requirements or determining if required matching can be waived. CSREES retains the right to make final determinations regarding matching requirements.

For those grants where matching funds are required as specified under Part III., B., the R&R Budget (Total Fed and Non-Fed) must be utilized. Applications should include written verification of commitments of matching support (including both cash and in-kind contributions) from third parties. Written verification means:

For any third party cash contributions, a separate pledge agreement for each donation, signed by the authorized organizational representative of the donor organization and the applicant organization, which must include: (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the donor; (2) the name of the applicant organization; (3) the title of the project for which the donation is made; (4) the dollar amount of the cash donation; and (5) a statement that the donor will pay the cash contribution during the grant period.

For any third party in-kind contributions, a separate pledge agreement for each contribution, signed by the authorized organizational representatives of the donor organization and the applicant organization, which must include: (1) the name, address, and telephone number of the donor; (2) the name of the applicant organization; (3) the title of the project for which the donation is made; (4) a good faith estimate of the current fair market value of the third party in-kind contribution; and (5) a statement that the donor will make the contribution during the grant period.

The sources and the amount of all matching support from outside the applicant institution should be summarized on a separate page and placed in the application immediately following the Budget Narrative. All pledge agreements must be placed in the application immediately following the summary of matching support.

The value of applicant contributions to the project shall be established in accordance with the applicable cost principles. Applicants should refer to OMB Circular A-21, Cost Principles for Educational Institutions, for further guidance and other requirements relating to matching and allowable costs.

3. CSREES Supplemental Information Form

a. Program Code (Field 2. on the Form). Enter the appropriate program code name and the program code exactly as it appears in the table below. Note that the Program Code is case-sensitive. Do not include spaces in the Program Code. This data field is used to electronically route your proposal to the correct program.

Program Code Name	Program Code
National Facilitation Proposals	110.A
Extension Education Proposals	110.C
Integrated Research Education and Extension Proposals	110.D

b. Conflict of Interest List (Field 8. on the Form). A conflict of interest list is required under this program.

C. Submission Date and Time

Instructions for submitting an application are included in Part IV, Section 1.9 of the CSREES Grants.gov Application Guide.

Applications must be received by Grants.gov by COB on **April 4, 2007** (5:00 p.m. Eastern Time). Applications received after this deadline will normally not be considered for funding. The receipt of all applications will be acknowledged by e-mail. Therefore, applicants are strongly encouraged to provide accurate e-mail addresses, where designated, on the SF-424 R&R Application for Federal Assistance.

If the AR has not received a confirmation message from CSREES within 30 days of submission of the application, please contact the Agency Contact identified in Part VII of the applicable RFA and request the proposal number assigned to the application. **Failure to do so may result in the application not being considered for funding by the peer review panel. Once the application has been assigned a proposal number, this number should be cited on all future correspondence.**

D. Funding Restrictions

CSREES has determined that grant funds awarded under this authority may not be used for the renovation or refurbishment of research, education, or extension space; the purchase or installation of fixed equipment in such space; or the planning, repair, rehabilitation, acquisition, or construction of buildings or facilities.

Section 709 of the FY 2006 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Public Law 109-97) limits indirect costs to 20 percent of the total Federal funds provided under each award. Therefore, when preparing budgets, applicants should limit their requests for recovery of indirect costs to the lesser of their institution's official negotiated indirect cost rate or the equivalent of 20 percent of total Federal funds awarded. Another method of calculating the maximum allowable is 25 percent of the total direct costs. Please note that if the FY 2007 Appropriations Act contains a different indirect cost limitation CSREES will contact each successful applicant to apply the correct rate prior to the award of a grant.

E. Other Submission Requirements

The applicant should follow the submission requirements noted in the document entitled "A Guide for Preparation and Submission of CSREES Applications via Grants.gov."

PART V—APPLICATION REVIEW REQUIREMENTS

A. General

Each application will be evaluated in a two-part process. First, each application will be screened to ensure that it meets the administrative requirements as set forth in this RFA. Second, applications that meet these requirements will be technically evaluated by a review panel.

Reviewers will be selected based upon training and experience in relevant scientific, extension, or education fields, taking into account the following factors: (a) The level of relevant formal scientific, technical education, or extension experience of the individual, as well as the extent to which an individual is engaged in relevant research, education, or extension activities; (b) the need to include as reviewers experts from various areas of specialization within relevant scientific, education, or extension fields; (c) the need to include as reviewers other experts (e.g., producers, range or forest managers/operators, and consumers) who can assess relevance of the applications to targeted audiences and to program needs; (d) the need to include as reviewers experts from a variety of organizational types (e.g., colleges, universities, industry, state and Federal agencies, private profit and non-profit organizations) and geographic locations; (e) the need to maintain a balanced composition of reviewers with regard to minority and female representation and an equitable age distribution; and (f) the need to include reviewers who can judge the effective usefulness to producers and the general public of each application.

B. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation criteria below will be used in reviewing applications submitted in response to this RFA:

Applications that are strong in all three areas and that address special emphasis areas identified in this RFA will be more likely to receive NIWQP funding.

1. Technical merit of all aspects of the application, including research, education, and extension components, as appropriate.

- (a) Adequacy and appropriateness of objectives for research, education, and extension, as appropriate;
- (b) Extent to which proposed work addresses identified stakeholder needs and water resource issues of concern;
- (c) Suitability and feasibility of methodology for conducting work;
- (d) Reasonability of time allocated for attainment of objectives;
- (e) Qualifications of key project personnel;
- (f) Institutional experience and competence in proposed area of work; and
- (g) Adequacy of available support personnel, equipment, and facilities.

2. Relevance of proposed project to NIWQP purpose (see Part I, B.).

- (a) Relationship of project objectives to national themes;
- (b) Extent to which special emphasis areas are addressed;
- (c) Transferability of project results or developed materials beyond the project scale;

- (d) Evidence of necessary involvement from interdisciplinary teams;
- (e) Extent to which partnerships with other institutions (Federal, State, other) are developed;
- (f) Extent to which end users were/will be involved in problem identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation;
- (g) Probability of success of the project; and
- (h) Extent to which potential impact(s) can/will be documented.

3. Review criteria for specific program areas.

- **National Facilitation Projects:**

1. Degree to which the project facilitates development of public policy or increases public understanding and involvement in community decision-making for water resources;
2. Evidence of new or enhanced partnerships and networks;
3. Quality of management plans for administering the national or multi-regional effort; and
4. Suitability and feasibility of methods for evaluating success of project activities.

- **Extension Education Projects:**

1. Identification of the appropriate audience or stakeholder group of interest;
2. Effectiveness of the plan to deliver an extension/outreach program that will lead to measurable outcome-oriented impacts on water resources;
3. Assessment of the degree to which the project plan will achieve adoption of appropriate practices among the audience or stakeholders; and
4. Quality of the evaluation plans for assessing the impact of the project on water resources.

- **Integrated Research, Education, and Extension Projects:**

1. Degree of integration of research, education and extension;
2. Inclusion of an interdisciplinary team that includes physical, chemical, biological and social scientists (as appropriate);
3. Identification of the cause of water resource degradation;
4. Suitability of scale;
5. Likelihood that project will fill knowledge gaps that are critical to the development of practices and programs and improve the quality of the Nation's water resources;
6. Likelihood that project will create educational deliverables (e.g., interdisciplinary curriculum, experiential learning for undergraduates and graduate students) that will train the next generation of scientists and educators who will work to improve the Nation's water resources;
7. Identification of the appropriate audience or stakeholder group of interest and effectiveness of plan to deliver an extension/outreach program that will lead to measurable outcome-oriented impacts;
8. Appropriateness of management plan (developed with input from stakeholder advisory groups, watershed councils, or other community led action teams) and likelihood that it will lead to measurable improvements in the watershed condition;
9. Quality of monitoring and evaluation plans; and

10. Inclusion of plans to evaluate the costs and benefit of best management practices.

C. Conflicts of Interest and Confidentiality

During the peer evaluation process, extreme care will be taken to prevent any actual or perceived conflicts of interest that may impact review or evaluation. For the purpose of determining conflicts of interest, the academic and administrative autonomy of an institution shall be determined by reference to the current Higher Education Directory, published by Higher Education Publications, Inc., 6400 Arlington Boulevard, Suite 648, Falls Church, Virginia 22042. Phone: (703) 532-2300. Web site: <http://www.hepinc.com>.

Names of submitting institutions and individuals, as well as application content and peer evaluations, will be kept confidential, except to those involved in the review process, to the extent permitted by law. In addition, the identities of peer reviewers will remain confidential throughout the entire review process. Therefore, the names of the reviewers will not be released to applicants.

D. Organizational Management Information

Specific management information relating to an applicant shall be submitted on a one time basis, with updates on an as needed basis, as part of the responsibility determination prior to the award of a grant identified under this RFA, if such information has not been provided previously under this or another CSREES program. CSREES will provide copies of forms recommended for use in fulfilling these requirements as part of the pre-award process. Although an applicant may be eligible based on its status as one of these entities, there are factors which may exclude an applicant from receiving Federal financial and non-financial assistance and benefits under this program (e.g., debarment or suspension of an individual involved or a determination that an applicant is not responsible based on submitted organizational management information).

PART VI—AWARD ADMINISTRATION

A. General

Within the limit of funds available for such purpose, the awarding official of CSREES shall make grants to those responsible, eligible applicants whose applications are judged most meritorious under the procedures set forth in this RFA. The date specified by the awarding official of CSREES as the effective date of the grant shall be no later than September 30 of the Federal fiscal year in which the project is approved for support and funds are appropriated for such purpose, unless otherwise permitted by law. It should be noted that the project need not be initiated on the grant effective date, but as soon thereafter as practical so that project goals may be attained within the funded project period. All funds granted by CSREES under this RFA shall be expended solely for the purpose for which the funds are granted in accordance with the approved application and budget, the regulations, the terms and conditions of the award, the applicable Federal cost principles, and the Department's assistance regulations (parts 3015 and 3019 of 7 CFR).

B. Award Notice

The award document will provide pertinent instructions and information including, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Legal name and address of performing organization or institution to whom the Administrator has issued an award under the terms of this request for applications;
- (2) Title of project;
- (3) Name(s) and institution(s) of PDs chosen to direct and control approved activities;
- (4) Identifying award number assigned by the Department;
- (5) Project period, specifying the amount of time the Department intends to support the project without requiring re-competition for funds;
- (6) Total amount of Departmental financial assistance approved by the Administrator during the project period;
- (7) Legal authority(ies) under which the award is issued;
- (8) Appropriate Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number;
- (9) Applicable award terms and conditions (see <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/awards/awardterms.html> to view CSREES award terms and conditions);

(10) Approved budget plan for categorizing allocable project funds to accomplish the stated purpose of the award; and

(11) Other information or provisions deemed necessary by CSREES to carry out its respective awarding activities or to accomplish the purpose of a particular award.

C. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Several Federal statutes and regulations apply to grant applications considered for review and to project grants awarded under this program. These include, but are not limited to:

7 CFR Part 1, subpart A—USDA implementation of the Freedom of Information Act.

7 CFR Part 3—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-129 regarding debt collection.

7 CFR Part 15, subpart A—USDA implementation of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended.

7 CFR Part 331 and 9 CFR Part 121—USDA implementation of the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002.

7 CFR Part 3015—USDA Uniform Federal Assistance Regulations, implementing OMB directives (i.e., OMB Circular Nos. A-21 and A-122, now codified at 2 CFR Parts 220 and 230) and incorporating provisions of 31 U.S.C. 6301-6308 (formerly the Federal Grant and Cooperative Agreement Act of 1977, Pub. L. No. 95-224), as well as general policy requirements applicable to recipients of Departmental financial assistance.

7 CFR Part 3017—USDA implementation of Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and 7 CFR Part 3021—Government-wide Requirements for Drug Free Workplace (Grants).

7 CFR Part 3018—USDA implementation of Restrictions on Lobbying. Imposes prohibitions and requirements for disclosure and certification related to lobbying on recipients of Federal contracts, grants, cooperative agreements, and loans.

7 CFR Part 3019—USDA implementation of OMB Circular A-110, Uniform Administrative Requirements for Grants and Other Agreements With Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and Other Nonprofit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3052—USDA implementation of OMB Circular No. A-133, Audits of States, Local Governments, and Non profit Organizations.

7 CFR Part 3407—CSREES procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended.

29 U.S.C. 794 (section 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973) and 7 CFR Part 15b (USDA implementation of statute) —prohibiting discrimination based upon physical or mental handicap in Federally assisted programs.

35 U.S.C. 200 et seq. —Bayh Dole Act, controlling allocation of rights to inventions made by employees of small business firms and domestic nonprofit organizations, including universities, in Federally assisted programs (implementing regulations are contained in 37 CFR Part 401).

D. Expected Program Outputs and Reporting Requirements

Annually, each grantee must submit a one- to two-page technical Summary of Work to the CSREES National Program Leader for Water Quality and to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Coordinator (see Part I, C. for more information). Once a project is complete, the grantee is required to submit a Final Technical Report to the CSREES National Program Leader for Water Quality and to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Coordinator. The Final Technical Report should summarize all work conducted and detail outcomes, accomplishments, and outputs of funded work. This report should not exceed 15 single-spaced, typed pages. Grantees also must participate in annual conferences or symposiums, organized on behalf of the NIWQP, where project results and outcomes are presented and discussed.

Grantees are required to submit annual and summary evaluation reports via CSREES' Current Research Information System (CRIS). CRIS is an electronic, Web-based inventory system that facilitates both grantee submissions of project outcomes and public access to information on Federally-funded projects.

PART VII—AGENCY CONTACTS

Applicants and other interested parties are encouraged to contact Dr. Michael P. O'Neill; National Program Leader for Water Quality; Natural Resources and Environment Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2210; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2210; Telephone: (202) 205-5952; Fax: (202) 401-1706; E-mail: moneill@csrees.usda.gov or Ms. Lisa Duriancik, Program Specialist, Natural Resources and Environment Unit; Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service; U.S. Department of Agriculture; STOP 2210; 1400 Independence Avenue, SW; Washington, DC 20250-2210; Telephone: (202) 401-4141; Fax: (202) 401-1706; E-mail: lduriancik@csrees.usda.gov.

PART VIII—OTHER INFORMATION

A. Access to Review Information

Copies of reviews, not including the identity of reviewers, and a summary of the panel comments will be sent to the applicant PD after the review process has been completed.

B. Use of Funds; Changes

1. Delegation of Fiscal Responsibility

Unless the terms and conditions of the award state otherwise, the awardee may not in whole or in part delegate or transfer to another person, institution, or organization the responsibility for use or expenditure of award funds.

2. Changes in Project Plans

a. The permissible changes by the awardee, PD(s), or other key project personnel in the approved project shall be limited to changes in methodology, techniques, or other similar aspects of the project to expedite achievement of the project's approved goals. If the awardee or the PD(s) is uncertain as to whether a change complies with this provision, the question must be referred to the Authorized Departmental Officer (ADO) for a final determination. The ADO is the signatory of the award document, not the program contact.

b. Changes in approved goals or objectives shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes. In no event shall requests for such changes be approved which are outside the scope of the original approved project.

c. Changes in approved project leadership or the replacement or reassignment of other key project personnel shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such changes.

d. Transfers of actual performance of the substantive programmatic work in whole or in part and provisions for payment of funds, whether or not Federal funds are involved, shall be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to effecting such transfers, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of the award.

e. The project period may be extended by CSREES without additional financial support, for such additional period(s) as the ADO determines may be necessary to complete or fulfill the purposes of an approved project, but in no case shall the total project period exceed five years. Any extension of time shall be conditioned upon prior request by the awardee and approval in writing by the ADO, unless prescribed otherwise in the terms and conditions of award.

f. Changes in Approved Budget: Unless stated otherwise in the terms and conditions of award, changes in an approved budget must be requested by the awardee and approved in writing by the ADO prior to instituting such changes if the revision will involve transfers or expenditures of

amounts requiring prior approval as set forth in the applicable Federal cost principles, Departmental regulations, or award.

C. Confidential Aspects of Applications and Awards

When an application results in an award, it becomes a part of the record of CSREES transactions, available to the public upon specific request. Information that the Secretary determines to be of a confidential, privileged, or proprietary nature will be held in confidence to the extent permitted by law. Therefore, any information that the applicant wishes to have considered as confidential, privileged, or proprietary should be clearly marked within the application. The original copy of an application that does not result in an award will be retained by the Agency for a period of three years. Other copies will be destroyed. Such an application will be released only with the consent of the applicant or to the extent required by law. An application may be withdrawn at any time prior to the final action thereon.

D. Regulatory Information

For the reasons set forth in the final Rule related Notice to 7 CFR part 3015, subpart V (48 FR 29114, June 24, 1983), this program is excluded from the scope of the Executive Order 12372 which requires intergovernmental consultation with State and local officials. Under the provisions of the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. chapter 35), the collection of information requirements contained in this Notice have been approved under OMB Document No. 0524-0039.

E. Definitions

For the purpose of this program, the following definitions are applicable:

1890 Land-Grant Institution means one of those institutions eligible to receive funds under the Act of August 30, 1890 (26 Stat. 419, chapter 841, 7 U.S.C. 321 et seq.) including Tuskegee University and West Virginia State University.

1994 Land-Grant Institution means one of those institutions as defined in Section 532 of the Equity in Education Land-Grant Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), as amended. These institutions are commonly referred to as Tribal Colleges or Tribal Universities.

Administrator means the Administrator of the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Authorized Departmental Officer means the Secretary or any employee of the Department who has the authority to issue or modify grant instruments on behalf of the Secretary.

Authorized Representative means the president or chief executive officer of the applicant organization or the official, designated by the president or chief executive officer of the applicant organization, who has the authority to commit the resources of the organization.

Budget period means the interval of time (usually 12 months) into which the project period is divided for budgetary and reporting purposes.

Cash contributions means the applicant's cash outlay, including the outlay of money contributed to the applicant by non-Federal third parties.

Department or USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

Education activity means formal classroom instruction, laboratory instruction, and practicum experience in the food and agricultural sciences and other related matters such as faculty development, student recruitment and services, curriculum development, instructional materials and equipment, and innovative teaching methodologies.

Extension activity means an act or process that delivers science-based knowledge and informal educational programs to people, enabling them to make practical decisions.

Grant means the award by the Secretary of funds to an eligible organization or individual to assist in meeting the costs of conducting, for the benefit of the public, an identified project which is intended and designed to accomplish the purpose of the program as identified in these guidelines.

Grantee means an organization designated in the grant award document as the responsible legal entity to which a grant is awarded.

Integrated means to bring the three components of the agricultural knowledge system (research, education, and extension) together around a problem area or activity.

Matching means that portion of allowable project costs not borne by the Federal Government, including the value of in-kind contributions.

Peer review means an evaluation of a proposed project for scientific or technical quality and relevance performed by experts with the scientific knowledge and technical skills to conduct the proposed work or to give expert advice on the merits of a proposal.

Project director means the single individual designated by the grantee in the grant application and approved by the Secretary who is responsible for the direction and management of the project, also known as a principal investigator for research activities.

Prior approval means written approval evidencing prior consent by an authorized departmental officer as defined above.

Project means the particular activity within the scope of the program supported by a grant award.
Project period means the period, as stated in the award document and modifications thereto, if any, during which Federal sponsorship begins and ends.

Research activity means a scientific investigation or inquiry that results in the generation of knowledge.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture and any other officer or employee of the Department to whom the authority involved is delegated.

Third party in-kind contributions means non-cash contributions of property or services provided by non-Federal third parties, including real property, equipment, supplies and other expendable property, directly benefiting and specifically identifiable to a funded project or program.

Total integrated, multifunctional research, education, and extension approach means that the combination of grants (although the individual grants may involve only research, education, or extension activities or a combination thereof) awarded under the fiscal year's program components will work together to address the priorities in United States agriculture as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture in consultation with the Advisory Board, that involve integrated research, extension, and education activities.

Urbanizing means areas of agricultural and rural watersheds that are experiencing rapidly increasing land development pressure including but not limited to development for low, medium, and high density housing, industrial and commercial sites, and the infrastructure (roads, highways, utilities, etc.) needed to support this increased land development.

F. CSREES' Grants.gov Implementation Plans

CSREES is continuing to develop its capacity to exchange proposal and grant data electronically with its grantees through [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and to process, review, and award proposals and grants electronically.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, CSREES offered an electronic application option for select grant programs and partnered with five institutions to use Grants.gov Apply. CSREES utilized the SF-424 R&R (Research and Related) forms package (see 70 FR 9656, published in the Federal Register on February 28, 2005) along with CSREES Agency-specific forms and instructions to receive the electronic applications. These pilot activities were successful and provided lessons for applicants and CSREES.

As a result, for the FY 2007 (October 1, 2006-September 30, 2007) cycle, CSREES is requiring electronic submission through Grants.gov for some programs while providing a Grants.gov option for others. Please visit <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/fy07changes.html> for information about FY 2007 submission requirements by program. For more information about CSREES' Grants.gov plans, including important announcements, program implementation, and detailed requirements, see the CSREES' web site, http://www.csrees.usda.gov/business/other_links/egov/egov.html. The information on these web sites will be updated as appropriate. It is suggested that the sites be visited periodically for important updates.

G. DUNS Number

A Dun and Bradstreet (D&B) Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number is a unique nine-digit sequence recognized as the universal standard for identifying and keeping track of over 70 million businesses worldwide. A Federal Register notice of final policy issuance (68 FR 38402) requires a DUNS number in every application (i.e., hard copy and electronic) for a grant or cooperative agreement (except applications from individuals) submitted on or after October 1, 2003. Therefore, project directors should contact an AR to obtain the DUNS number or have the AR begin the steps needed to obtain one.

For information about how to obtain a DUNS number go to <http://www.grants.gov/RequestaDUNS>. Please note that the registration may take up to 14 business days to complete.